

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 17-32 are pending. By this Amendment, a new specification containing no new matter has been added and original claims 1-16 have been replaced with new claims 17-32. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the disclosure was objected to based on the appearance of the incorrectly spelled word "centring." By this Amendment, the claims and specification have been amended to eliminate the word "centring." Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 11 and 12 were objected to based on the inclusion of the word "centring." By this Amendment, the word "centring" does not appear in the claims.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, in regard to the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed because the claimed "bind members" are disclosed in the specification and shown in the drawings. For example, for shallow water applications, the bind members are positioning stake-plate body combinations (1) that are located above the cross rib of the plate body and have outwardly protruded parts. See original specification page 2, starting at line 14 (subspecification paragraph 0006). As another example, for deep water applications, the bind member is a positioning baffle comprised of a plate body and an outward lug protruded outwardly along the direction of its outer surface on the upper edge of the plate body. See original specification page 3, lines 4-9 (subspecification paragraph 0008) and Figure 14 where the positioning beam 13 and the positioning baffle 12 are illustrated. See also the description of embodiment 3 at page 11 of the original specification (subspecification 0051).

CHEN et al.
Appl. No. 10/633,311
October 7, 2004

In addition, the use of the term "caisson" in the claims and specification has been replaced with the more generic term "assembly" to address the concerns raised in paragraph 5 of the Office Action.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed as original claims 1-16 have been replaced with new claims 17-32 which have been written so as to place the claims in a format more conducive to U.S. examination and practice.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

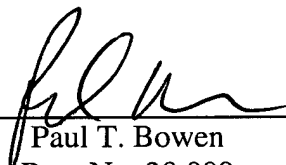
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


Paul T. Bowen
Reg. No. 38,009

PTB:jck
Attachments:
Marked-up Substitute Specification
Clean Version of Substitute Specification

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100